

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Underground Storage Tank Removal & Cleanup

This checklist is a guide for local agencies and consultants to determine potential site eligibility for underground storage tank (UST) funding programs. Instructions:

- Complete the worksheet in numerical order.
- Provide the responsible party (RP)/property owner with the associated fact sheet after possible eligibility is determined. (Links to all fact sheets are provided at the end of this checklist.)
- For specific questions, call or email the contacts provided in the fact sheets.

Note: This checklist is not an exhaustive list of eligibility requirements and should only be used as an initial screening.

			Criteria	Yes/No	Explanation
1			Has the owner/RP received a directive letter from a regulatory agency? Date of First Directive Letter:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>A directive must be issued before you can apply for both the UST Cleanup Fund (CUF) and Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF).</i>
2			Has the owner obtained a cost estimate for the work required? Amount (\$\$):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>These funding sources require a cost estimate in order to apply. Provide guidance on how to select a certified contractor.</i>
3			Are any back fees or permit fees owed to the local oversight agency? Amount (\$\$):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>Government funding programs do not cover back fees or permit fees.</i>
If no cost estimate has been obtained, inform owner cost estimates must be included with any funding program application.					
4	USTs PRESENT	RUST	How many USTs are present? # of USTs: Capacity (Gallons): Construction:		<i>The RUST Grant & Loan Programs cover UST removal and upgrades of UST systems. Contractors need UST information to provide accurate cost estimates that will be submitted with the application form.</i>
5			When was the property acquired?		Date: How Acquired: <input type="checkbox"/> Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Auction <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Deed <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
6			Who was the last operator and when were the USTs last in operation? Name: Contact: Date of last operation:		<i>If USTs were in service on or after January 1, 1999, then the site may be eligible for the RUST Grant Program. If they came out of service prior to 1999, then the site may be eligible for the RUST Loan Program.</i>
7			If USTs are present, does the current owner plan to bring the USTs back into operation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<i>SB445ⁱ requires permanent closure of all single-walled steel USTs on or before Dec 31, 2025.</i>
If USTs are present and site was retailing gas on or after Jan 1, 1999, provide owner RUSTⁱⁱ Grant factsheet and application.					
If USTs were last in operation prior to 1999, provide owner RUST Loan factsheet, Financial Development Corporation (FDC)ⁱⁱⁱ listings, and application. Low-interest loans have a payback period of 10 or 20 years.					

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8	CONFIRMED PETROLEUM RELEASE	UST Claims Program	Is there an Open Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) case in the GeoTracker database?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>To be eligible for the CUF, a site must have a confirmed petroleum release from USTs, leading the cleanup agency to open a LUST case.</i>	
9			Has the property owner ever operated the USTs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>Applicant must be previous operator of USTs.</i>	
Dates of Operation (MM/DD/YYYY):						
10			Is the property owner in compliance with UST permitting requirements and regulatory cleanup directives?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>The site must be in compliance before an application to the CUF will be approved.</i>	
11			Has the owner been previously denied access to the Clean Up Fund (CUF)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>It may be possible to re-submit a CUF application if denial was based on missing documents that can be obtained.</i>	
Denial Reason:						
If owner is previous operator, in compliance with applicable UST permitting requirements and regulatory cleanup directives, provide owner CUF^{iv} application form. Note: The CUF will NOT reimburse expenses for UST removal.						
12	CONFIRMED RELEASE	OSCF	Did the property owner operate the USTs or cause/contribute to the release?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If an owner does not attempt to comply with directives within a timely manner, it can be determined that they contributed to the release, making them ineligible for the OSCF.</i>	
13			Is the property owner related (business or familial relation) to the previous operator?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>The owner is not eligible for the OSCF if they are affiliated with the person who caused or contributed to the release, including business and familial relations.</i>	
If the owner never operated the USTs/contributed to the release, is not related to previous operator/owner, and petroleum contamination has been confirmed, provide owner with OSCF^v factsheet and application.						
14	USTs PRESENT OR CONFIRMED RELEASE	TBA	What is the current property use? <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Retail (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant <input type="checkbox"/> Structures Present <input type="checkbox"/> Paved Lot <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Repair <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Gas Station <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		<i>The TBA Program wants to understand how the site use will change as its purpose is to incentivize the redevelopment of properties with contamination or perceived contamination.</i>	
15			Has a government agency or nonprofit expressed interest in redeveloping the property for public benefit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>If yes, list planned/potential reuse to include in application:</i>	
If "YES", provide owner US EPA TBA^{vi} factsheet. The owner (or potential buyer) would not need to hire their own contractor under the TBA Program, as EPA's contractor would conduct the assessment.						

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NOTES

- ⁱⁱⁱ SB 445 Senate Bill 445. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/docs/sb445_notification_if_9_26.pdf.
- ^{iv} RUST The State Water Board's **Removing, Replacing, and Upgrading Underground Storage Tanks (RUST) Program** includes both loan and grant programs.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/rust.shtml
- ^v FDC **Financial Development Corporation (FDC)** list includes development corporations located throughout California, which provide **FREE** RUST Loan preparation assistance. RUST Loan applications must be submitted through an FDC.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/docs/rust/fdc_listings.pdf
- ⁱ CUF The State Water Board's **UST Claims Program** reimburses eligible responsible parties for assessment and cleanup costs at sites where petroleum contamination from USTs has been confirmed.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/
- ⁱⁱ OSCF The State Water Board's **Orphan Site Cleanup Fund (OSCF)** can assess and cleanup sites, including tank removal, at sites where petroleum contamination has been confirmed.
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml
- ^{vi} US EPA TBA United States Environmental Protection Agency **Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program** provides limited site assessments for government agencies and nonprofits upon request at sites with suspected or known contamination. Access to the site must be approved by the property owner.
<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/targeted-brownfields-assessments-tba>